

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 11

University of California, Santa Cruz

Department of Philosophy

Summer 2014

Class Meetings: TuWeTh 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Instructor

David Donley

Office Hours: TuWeTh 3:30 – 4:00 PM or by appointment

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Course Description

This course provides an introductory historical survey of classic and contemporary approaches to some central topics in several key sub-disciplines of Western philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, social and political philosophy and ethics. With a focus on Western philosophy's major thinkers, this survey begins with Ancient Greek philosophy and concludes with the two dominant traditions of the 20th century: Analytic and Continental Philosophy. As a contrast to Western philosophy, the class will end with discussion of Buddhism and Taoism.

Required Texts

Looking At Philosophy: The Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter (5th or 6th Edition) by Donald Palmer. McGraw-Hill 2009 or 2012.

Course Requirements

1. Midterm Exam (40% of grade)
 - Date: TBA.
 - This exam will consist of four short answer questions and two essay questions.
 - The exam will cover the material from the first two weeks of class.
 - Blue Book is required.
2. Final Paper (40% of grade)
 - This paper will require you to examine how the ideas of philosophers discussed in class and the text have influenced your own beliefs about the nature of knowledge, reality, morality, and/or human subjectivity. Your explanations of philosophical ideas and arguments should be clear, concise, and thorough. Make sure to show all the steps in your reasoning of how a certain philosopher's argument caused you to reconsider or strengthen your previous beliefs about the nature of the aforementioned topics. Further, you need to

consider alternative viewpoints to yours; in doing so, provide an explanation of why you do not find such alternatives as compelling or reasonable.

- Length: 4-6 pages (at least four *complete* pages).
- Format: one-inch margins, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt.
- Due Date: TBA.

3. Participation (20% of grade)

- Attendance for lecture is mandatory. Given that summer session classes are only five weeks, attendance in every class is necessary to keep with the material in order to be well prepared for the exam and paper. Three or more absences will lead to the loss of entire participation grade.
- Active participation in class discussions and well-developed free writes is necessary to receive full credit for the participation grade.
- The use of cell phones or other electronic devices for non-class related purposes will lead to the loss of the participation grade as well.

Other Course Policies

- **Lateness policy:** Late assignments and make-up tests are *not* allowed, except for documented emergencies/illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance. Please notify the instructor in advance of your need for an exception to course deadlines and attendance requirements.
- **Email policy:** Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to the instructor. Note regarding all email correspondence: Please be kind and considerate. Because substantive philosophical questions about readings, arguments, or ideas often require back and forth discussion, they are best answered in person—during office hours, or class discussion.
- **Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course!** If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me after class or during my office hours, preferably within the first week of the session. The sooner you let me know your situation, the sooner I can assist you. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For more information please visit UCSC's Disability Resource Center homepage: <http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.shtml>.
- **Plagiarism policy:** You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC's policies on academic honesty (http://www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions or concerns about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask us.
 - UCLA has helpful tips on avoiding plagiarism:
<http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/b Bruinsuccess/>
 - “How Not to Plagiarize”:
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/images/stories/Documents/how-not-to-plagiarize.pdf>

Lecture and Reading Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Week 1 –	Syllabus & What is Philosophy?	Syllabus and Intro in <i>Looking at Philosophy</i>
	The Sophists & Socrates	Chapter 2 (Sophists & Socrates)
	Plato	Chapter 2 (Plato)
Week 2 –	Aristotle	Chapter 2 (Aristotle)
	Hellenistic Philosophy	Chapter 3
	Mid-term Exam	
Week 3 –	Continental Rationalism	Chapter 5 (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz)
	British Empiricism	Chapter 5 (Locke, Berkley, Hume)
	Kant's Critical Philosophy	Chapter 5 (Kant)
Week 4 –	Dialectic Philosophy	Chapter 6 (Hegel and Marx)
	Nietzsche's Aesthetics of Life	Chapter 6 (Nietzsche)
	Analytic Philosophy	Chapter 8 (Analytic Tradition through Quine)
Week 5 –	Existentialism	Chapter 6 (Kierkegaard) and Chapter 7 (Heidegger and Sartre)
	Postmodernism	Chapter 7 (Structuralism and Post-Structuralism through Derrida)
	Buddhism and Taoism	TBA